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GERMAN BUNDESRAT APPROVES DEFERMENT OF PAYMENTS TO NAZI VICTIMS

BCNN, Dec. 19: (JTA) -- Legislation empowering the West German Government to defer in 1966 and 1967 the indemnification payments to a special group of Nazi victims, involving about 150,000 Jews, was approved this weekend by the Bundesrat, the upper house of the Bonn Parliament. It had been previously approved by the Bundestag, the lower house.

The legislation is now to go into effect after being signed by President Luebke and by Chancellor Erhard, and following its publication in the Official Gazette. The measure will give the West German Government authority to defer in those two years scheduled payments of \$50,000,000 for each year to victims who were in Iron Curtain countries by October 1, 1953, the deadline for filing claims under the original West German legislation. They were therefore unable to file. To meet the plight of these victims -- many of them old and ill -- West Germany set up a hardship fund of about \$300,000,000, with initial payments scheduled to start in 1966.

Chancellor Erhard's Government move to postpone the payments because of "budgetary difficulties," touched off worldwide criticism by Jewish organizations. The move was opposed in the Bundestag by the Social Democrat members of the Parliament. Chancellor Erhard was scheduled to fly today from Bonn to Washington, to meet with President Johnson on various problems of interest to the two countries.

German Minister of Finance Answers Criticism of Jewish Groups

BCNN, Dec. 19: (JTA) -- On the eve of the departure today of Chancellor Erhard for Washington to confer with President Johnson on matters concerning West Germany, Dr. Rolf Dahlgren, Minister of Finance, issued a declaration here stating that "some misconceptions have arisen recently on the implementation of Germany's restitution program." The declaration was a reply to criticisms by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, and by other Jewish organizations around the world, against the decision of the West German Government to postpone 1966 and 1967 reparations payments due to victims of Nazism who could not file their claims prior to 1953 because they had still been unable to leave East European countries.

The Claims Conference has threatened to challenge the constitutionality of the budget bill, if enacted, on the grounds that it would jeopardize rights of property or acquired property, contrary to the provisions of the West German Constitution. The declaration of the West German Finance Minister reads:

"The Federal Government has often demonstrated the special priority it gives to restitution for injustices committed under National Socialism. The payment of the \$250,000,000 increase voted by the Bundestag on May 26, 1965, however, will have to be effected within the framework of our budgetary problems. Nevertheless, I can say with assurance that the largest possible amount of this increase will be paid out in 1966 and 1967.

"It is our intention that the special conditions of recipients will be given full consideration. Since a statutory order is necessary for this purpose, we shall draft it with the consultation of the competent associations of persecutees; I would also stress that all claims to pensions, irrespective of whether they have been fixed in the past, or whether they will be fixed in 1966 or 1967, will be satisfied to the full in the future.

"The same applies to expenses incurred for medical treatment. It is being asserted that intolerable hardships are involved due to the fact that the educational grants, which have been increased by the final amending law from 5,000 to 10,000 Marks without requiring proof of lasting injury, are included in the postponement of payments. Such assertions ignore the fact that the persecutees affected thereby have already received the 5,000 Marks, and will also receive an appropriate share of the second 5,000 Marks without any postponement. As regards misgivings under constitutional law concerning Article

17, we have had this question investigated thoroughly by the ministries competent to deal with constitutional matters, and it has been definitely established that Article 17 does not contravene the Basic Law.

Seeks to Justify Deferment of Payments; Refers to Allies

"The Allies, the international Jewish organizations and all the other associations of persecutees expressly conceded to the Federal Republic in 1952 the right to take into consideration the solvency of the Federal Republic in making available the budgetary means required. This concession was given in view of anticipated financial requirements of 3,000,000,000 to 4,000,000,000 Marks (\$750,000,000 to \$1,000,000,000) to cover the entire federal indemnification law. Therefore, I do not understand why we should not be conceded the same right today, when we are faced with a gap of more than 7 billions in 1966. We have, in the meantime, met the costs of the federal indemnification and restitution law with an outlay of 19 billion Marks (\$4,750,000,000) and will probably pay another 15 billion Marks (\$3,750,000,000) up to 1975.

"We anticipate that an expenditure of about 1,800,000,000 will be necessary in 1965, as was the case in 1964. If we appropriate 1,900,000,000 for 1966 and 1967, as has been done in the Budget Stabilization Law, we do not effect reductions vis-a-vis the actual figures of the two previous years as is being constantly asserted, but in reality increase the sums being paid out by 100 million Marks (\$25,000,000).

"During discussions of the final law concerning the Federal Indemnification Law, I was told by the associations of persecutees that the annual burden imposed on the Federal Government and the States was not to be increased by the amending law but should merely be maintained at the same level for further years to come. This is just what has been achieved by Article 17 of the Budget Stabilization Law. It provides that we shall distribute about 7,500,000,000 Marks (\$1,875,000,000) to be anticipated for 1966 to 1969 evenly over four years, and thus keep midway between the estimated and actual sums.

"If we take appropriate account of minor claims or very old people in our implementing regulations, we shall come to a reasonable arrangement with the associations, which will do no harm to anyone, but will on the contrary take into consideration the overall situation. For there is one thing I must say again here: The preservation of the stability and purchasing power of our currency is of importance not only to us, but also to the persecutees, who must be interested in this just as much."

ESHKOL LEAVES HOSPITAL; HEARS REPORT ON SECURITY; CONFERS ON COALITION

JERUSALEM, Dec. 19: (JTA) -- Prime Minister Levi Eshkol was back home today after two weeks of hospitalization, and immediately launched into direct activity toward forming the new coalition Government, necessitated by the results of the general elections held on November 2. The present Cabinet is a caretaker Government.

Mr. Eshkol was released from Hadassah-Hebrew University Hospital last night, after spending two weeks recuperating from what the medical bulletins called "exhaustion." He had been wearied by the extraordinary activities during the election campaign. The first thing he did when he came home last night was to light the Chanukah candles. Then he conferred with Foreign Minister Golda Meir, receiving from her the latest reports on affairs concerning the Mapai-Achdut Avoda alignment.

This morning, he conferred with Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, chief of staff of Israel's defense forces, concerning security problems. After that talk, he resumed direct negotiations, mostly by telephone, with various party leaders of the groups he intends to line up in the new coalition. He also received a report about present Cabinet affairs from Deputy Prime Minister Abba Eban. The Premier is scheduled to remain at home about a week, after which he may go to a convalescent home to continue his recuperation.

GROUP OF U. S. SENATORS BRIEFED IN ISRAEL ON COUNTRY'S SECURITY PROBLEMS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 19: (JTA) -- Seven members of the United States Senate, visiting Israel for a four-day stay, were briefed on Israel's security problems here today by Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, chief of staff of Israel's defense forces.

The senators, headed by Sen. Wayne Morse, Oregon Democrat, arrived at Lydda Airport yesterday aboard a U. S. Air Force plane, accompanied by their wives. They were flown in an Israeli plane to Eilat, Israel's southernmost city and the port for shipping to and from Asia and Africa; then spent the night here. They were entertained at lunch in Jerusalem today by Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister.

JEWISH STUDENTS STAGE 'MENORAH MARCH' BEFORE SOVIET EMBASSY IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Dec. 19: (JTA) -- Jewish students, carrying a 10-foot high Chanukah Menorah, staged a demonstration here today in front of the offices of the Soviet Mission to the United Nations, protesting the denial of cultural and religious rights to Jews in the USSR.

NAZI COMMANDER GOES ON TRIAL IN GERMANY FOR KILLING 40,000 JEWS

KIEL, Dec. 19: (JTA) -- Former SS Lt. Col. Martin Fellenz went on trial here yesterday for the second time on charges involving the wartime slaughter of 40,000 Jews in the Cracow area, in occupied Poland, in 1942;

The 56-year-old businessman was first tried on the Cracow charges in 1962 in Flensburg. He was sentenced to four years' imprisonment on conviction of aiding in two of the murders. He was released shortly afterward because the court had ordered deduction of his pretrial detention from his term.

The Flensburg prosecutor's office ordered his rearrest, and the Federal High court ordered the retrial. Meanwhile, new charges have been made against Fellenz, one of them involving the charge that he was connected with the murder of 7,000 other victims.

The former SS officer has denied all of the accusations, asserting that the police chief of the entire Cracow region was responsible for the deportations of the 40,000 Jews to death camps. However, State Prosecutor Ulrich Plath argued in his presentation to the court here that responsibility for such actions was delegated to SS police chiefs of local districts. He asserted that this procedure had been proven by witnesses and documents.

NAZIS IN SECOND AUSCHWITZ TRIAL PLEAD 'NOT GUILTY' OF KILLING JEWS

FRANKFURT, Dec. 19: (JTA) -- Two of the three ex-Nazis being tried here in the second of the Auschwitz trials, accused of participating in the mass murder of thousands of Jews in the Auschwitz death camp, pleaded not guilty yesterday. The first Auschwitz trial, concluded here last August after proceedings lasting 20 months, had resulted in the conviction of 16 of the 20 defendants, six of the men being given life imprisonment terms.

The three on trial now are Wilhelm Burger, 61, charged with having been the man who provided the gas used for murdering Jews in the Auschwitz gas ovens; Josef Erber, 58, and Gerhard Neubert, 56. Burger conceded on the witness stand that his department at Auschwitz had provided gas, but insisted he did not know the gas was being used for murdering Jews. Erber, charged with having been a "selection officer" at the camp, denied the accusation and said he had never taken part in the selection of Auschwitz prisoners for death in the gas ovens.

NAZIS THREATEN TO BLOW UP BERLIN THEATER GIVING PLAY ON AUSCHWITZ

BERLIN, Dec. 19: (JTA) -- An anonymous threat to "blow up with explosives" the Freie Volkshuette Theater unless it removes within three days an anti-Nazi play it is showing, was received by the theater's management in the mail.

The play, "The Investigation," is based on the proceedings of the August trial in Frankfurt of 20 officials and medical personnel of the Auschwitz concentration camp. The play was written by Peter Weiss, and has drawn favorable attention from anti-Nazi Germans.

TWO SENTENCED IN GERMANY FOR SENDING NAZI THREATS TO DEPUTIES

COLOGNE, Dec. 19: (JTA) -- Erhard Reinhardt, 28, a laborer, and Eckart Bragard, 20, a mechanic, both of Aachen, were sentenced yesterday to prison terms of 15 months and six months, respectively, for sending death threats to West German Parliamentary members during the debate last spring on extension of the West German statute of limitations deadline for prosecution of Nazi war criminals.

The two men were convicted of sending Belgian neo-Nazi leaflets containing a threat that those who voted for the extension would be "sentenced to death."

AUSTRIAN COURT GRANTS NEW TRIAL TO NAZI SENTENCED FOR GENOCIDE

VIENNA, Dec. 19: (JTA) -- A new trial was granted here by the Austrian Supreme Court this weekend to Franz Novak, a former Nazi SS captain, who had previously been found guilty of war crimes and sentenced to eight years' imprisonment. The court found that the verdict against the man was "incomplete and contradictory," but ordered him held in custody until another trial is conducted.

Novak, known as "the ferryman of death," was convicted in 1964 on charges that, during World War II, he had arranged for the transport of thousands of Jews to Nazi concentration camps. The indictment accused him of packing the victims into cattle cars, where many of them died en route to the camps.

SOVIET COURT CONDEMNS RUSSIAN TO DEATH FOR AIDING NAZI MURDERERS TO KILL

LONDON, Dec. 19: (JTA) -- Ivan Melnikov, a Russian citizen accused of participating during World War II in the murder of underground fighters, has been condemned to death by a Soviet Court, according to a dispatch received here today from Moscow.

The man pleaded guilty to having been a member of the Nazi occupation police force. He fled in 1943 when the Soviet Army approached the area in which he was collaborating with the Nazis, but was caught and arrested recently.

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS BACKS U. N. DECISION ON RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

LONDON, Dec. 19; (JTA) -- Action to mobilize support of Jewish communities throughout the world in behalf of United Nations efforts to eliminate racial discrimination was pledged by the Governing Council of the World Jewish Congress at the close of its meeting here today.

The delegates, representing 64 Jewish communities and Jewish organizations, approved plans to hold the organization's fifth plenary World Assembly in Brussels July 31 to August 10, 1966. The plenary will review the Jewish position in various parts of the world, define Jewish attitudes on the major problems of the present time and consider measures to revitalize the spiritual and cultural life of Jewish communities and to secure the survival of the Jewish people.

The London meeting was attended by representatives of the WJC executive branches from Europe, North and South America and Israel. Dr. Nahum Goldmann, WJC president, and Israel M. Sieff, vice-president, presided. Dr. Goldmann hailed the adoption of a draft convention on elimination of all forms of racial discrimination by the Social Committee of the U. N. General Assembly last week as a major breakthrough in the campaign to protect and extend human rights which the WJC has conducted for the past 32 years.

He said that "for the first time, effective international machinery has been devised to protect human rights and freedoms." The draft, which awaits approval by the full Assembly, will come into force with ratification by 27 member states. It will enable individuals and groups to lodge complaints and seek redress in cases of abuses of human rights and freedoms on racial grounds.

NORTH AFRICAN JEWS IN FRANCE SEEK PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNAL WORK

PARIS, Dec. 19; (JTA) -- The Association of Jewish Repatriates from North Africa urged French Jewry today to make possible greater participation by the repatriates in the work and responsibilities of Jewish institutions and organizations in France.

The association, holding its annual general assembly here, represents the majority of the 100,000 repatriates from Algeria and thousands more from Morocco and Tunisia. Its goal is to maintain close contacts among the Algerian newcomers and to further their integration into the French community.

The meeting was held against the backdrop of expert Jewish opinion that the integration of the 100,000 Algerian Jews into the French Jewish community has been one of the most successful in history. Thanks largely to the work of the Fonds Sociale Juif Unifié, the major French Jewish welfare agency, and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the repatriates have been integrated both culturally and socially. Former Algerian Chief Rabbi David Ashkenazi and Rahmin Naouri, are serving as presidents of the association.

Speakers representing newly-formed communities called on French Jewry to provide seats for the repatriates on the governing bodies of French Jewish organizations and pledged in return to work for maximum cooperation with those organizations.

Pierre Attal and Maurice Ayoun, attorneys specializing in compensation claims, reported on current French legislation for indemnification for Algerian Jews for private and communal property abandoned in the former French territory and explained current legislative projects in that field. The association is a member of the National Union for Indemnification which represents most repatriate organizations.

Andre Narboni, former president of the Algerian Zionist Federation, brought greetings from Israel and from North African Jews who have settled there. He also called for closer ties between repatriates now living in Israel and France.

AMERICAN TEENAGE STUDENTS LEAVE FOR YOUNG JUDEA CONVENTION IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Dec. 19; (JTA) -- Forty-four American teenage students left today by plane for the National Young Judea convention in Israel which will last until January 9. The conclave is the first official convention of an American Jewish youth organization to be conducted in Israel.

The teenagers boarded their El Al flight after lighting the Chanukah candles in an impressive ceremony at the El Al departure offices at the airport. The 44 delegates are members of the national executive, national programming chairmen and 16 regional presidents elected in their Young Judea regions. Most of the sessions at the convention will be in Jerusalem.

Joint meetings with the Israel Scouting Associations, the Tzofim, will be held by the Young Judea group. The joint discussions between the two groups will be held on subjects such as the two Jewish communities, mutual responsibility of the Jewish youth community and projects to strengthen ties between the two groups. The Tzofim are the brother movement of National Young Judea.

ISRAEL STARTS CHANUKAH WITH LIGHTING FIRST CANDLE ATOP KNESSET

JERUSALEM, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- Chanukah celebrations were inaugurated throughout the country last night with the kindling of the traditional menorahs on public buildings and in the windows of most homes. The traditional torchlight parade of youth was held later in the evening in the main streets of the city.

Ceremonies opening the eight-day festivities began with the display of the first light atop the Knesset building here and with the lighting of a candelabra on Israel's Mount Scopus enclave which is entirely surrounded by Jordanian occupied territory. The enclave is manned by Israel police who guard the original buildings of the Hebrew University and the Hadassah Hospital.

CHANUKAH MARKED IN U. S. WITH MESSAGE OF CONCERN FOR SOVIET JEWRY

NEW YORK, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- The eight-day celebration of Chanukah, which started last night, was marked by a Chanukah message issued by the Synagogue Council of America -- the central national coordinating religious body which is composed of the official Conservative, Orthodox and Reform congregational and rabbinical groups -- expressing "deep concern" for the survival of Soviet Jewry as a religious community.

"At a time when we commemorate the heroic struggle of the Maccabees against religious oppression, a struggle that occurred in the infancy of history, it is profoundly sad to observe that in our own day Jews in the Soviet Union are denied those communal institutions and activities which are the very life blood of their religious existence," the message said.

"As we kindle the lamps of Chanukah 1965, we utter a special prayer for our brethren in the Soviet Union," the statement continued. "We also rededicate ourselves to renewed efforts to arouse the conscience of the world to their plight. We dare not slacken or grow tired in calling the attention of men everywhere to the tragedy of an historic community that stands at the very brink of cultural and religious oblivion. To this task we must obligate ourselves if we are to be true to the legacy of the Maccabees and if our celebration of their heroic dedication to religious freedom is to have any meaning in our lives."

The Synagogue Council of America also issued a statement criticizing the withdrawal of a Good Government Award from Rabbi Roland B. Gittlesohn of Boston by a local American Legion Post. The statement described the Legion's action as undermining "both our democratic process and our religious heritage." The Grosscup-Pishon Post of the American Legion retracted its decision to confer its Good Government Award on Rabbi Gittlesohn because it disapproved of Rabbi Gittlesohn's support of a march on Washington protesting U. S. policy in Viet Nam. "The issue is not the Viet Nam problem in itself, on which conscientious citizens can and do differ," the Council's statement declared. "The issue is freedom of expression and the right to dissent, which are integral parts of our American heritage."

Zionist Youths Hold Chanukah Torchlight Parade in Detroit

DETROIT, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- The Zionist Youth Council of Detroit held a Chanukah torchlight parade here last night, believed here to be the first of its kind in this country. Taking part in the event were Habonim, Hashomer Hatzair, Mizrahi Hatzair, the Student Zionist Organization and other groups. Following the parade, a ten-foot high menorah was lit on the grounds of the Detroit Jewish Center and a special Chanukah program was held inside the building.

NEW YORK CITY SUBURBS FLOODED WITH ANTI-NEGRO AND ANTI-JEWISH MAIL

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y., Dec. 19. (JTA) -- A flood of mail, most of it anti-Negro and some of it expressing also anti-Semitic sentiments, is being sent to addresses in New York City suburbs, particularly in Westchester County, of which this city is the center. That was revealed here this weekend by Israel H. Moss, executive director of the Westchester office of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Included among the mailings, said Mr. Moss, are about 5,000 booklets, entitled "How Classroom Desegregation Will Work," written by Dr. Henry E. Garrett, retired head of the psychology department of Columbia University. Some of the mail, he declared, originates at Richmond, Va., and some in Washington, D.C. Mr. Moss linked many of the mailings with persons believed to be members of the John Birch Society.

JEWISH STUDENTS ARE HARASSED IN N.J. HIGH SCHOOL, PARENTS CHARGE

WOODBIDGE, N.J., Dec. 19. (JTA) -- Charges that Jewish students of the Woodbridge High School are being harassed and subjected to anti-Semitic insults were made by 17 parents of students in this area this weekend. The parents complained to the Woodbridge Township Board of Education which has ordered Patrick Boylan, superintendent of schools here, to investigate.

JEWISH GROUPS REJECT N. Y. CITY DESIGN FOR MONUMENT FOR NAZI VICTIMS

NEW YORK, Dec. 19: (JTA) -- A plan by the New York City Art Commission to have a monument erected in a city square in memory of the 6,000,000 Jewish martyrs of Nazism is opposed by a steering committee of 34 Jewish organizations, a spokesman for the committee announced here today.

The Art Commission approved the project, calling for the erection of a 30-foot high slab of granite or marble in a small park facing Lincoln Center, a complex of mid-city structures devoted to the arts. The face of the slab would depict a sculpture showing Cain killing Abel, and would quote the story of that murder as told in the Book of Genesis. Under the Biblical quotation, there would be a dedication "in memoriam to the six million martyred Jews of Europe, 1933-1945."

According to the spokesman for the steering committee, that body considered the design now approved by the Art Commission, and rejected it a month ago. Instead of the proposed monument and the Lincoln Center site, the committee prefers the erection in Riverside Park of another, more dramatic monument, which the Art Commission rejected a year ago.

The project approved by the Commission calls for a memorial to cost \$250,000, to be met by the Committee for the Six Million Jews. The Commission last winter rejected two proposals by Jewish group sponsors, both proposed for sites in Riverside park. In rejecting both plans, the Commission said they were "too tragic" and that parks should be for relaxation "and not for commemoration of massacres."

A flood of telegrams and letters poured into Mayor Robert Wagner's office, asking him to reverse the decision which technically he cannot do. He urged the Jewish groups to work out a compromise with the Parks Department and the Art Commission. Expressing "amazement" over the Art Commission's approval of a memorial project without the consent of organized Jewry in this city, the steering committee planned today to form a broad committee which would conduct an art contest for a monument that would be acceptable both to the city and the Jewish community.

800 GRADUATES OF HAIFA TECHNION NOW IN U.S.; FORM ALUMNI GROUP

NEW YORK, Dec. 19: (JTA) -- Alumni of the Israel Institute of Technology, located in Haifa, who are presently in the United States, today established a new organization to be known as the Technion Alumni Association in the United States.

More than 300 people participated in a luncheon-meeting at the Statler-Hilton Hotel which initiated the new group, and which will be affiliated with the Technion Alumni Association in Israel. It is hoped to enroll in the new group the nearly 800 graduates of the Technion who are now in this country.

Most of the graduates of the Technion are here studying for advanced degrees in a wide variety of disciplines while others are employed in specialized fields offering techniques and know-how that will be valuable to Israel upon their return. A smaller number of the alumni are also holding down temporary academic posts in leading universities, mostly during their Sabbatical absences from Israel. The luncheon-meeting was addressed by Alexander Goldberg, president of the Technion, who is currently on a brief visit to the United States.

29 JEWISH GROUPS HONOR ALLAN BRONFMAN IN MONTREAL ON 70TH BIRTHDAY

MONTREAL, Dec. 19: (JTA) -- Allan Bronfman, one of Canada's outstanding Jewish communal and international leaders, was honored here at a testimonial dinner on his 70th birthday attended by more than 700 people. The testimonial event was arranged by 29 national and local Jewish organizations.

Mr. Bronfman's sons, Edward and Peter, announced plans to contribute an addition to the Shaar Hashomayim synagogue here, where the family worships which will bear Mr. Bronfman's name and house a library, museum and youth center. They also announced they would donate a reception center at the Hebrew University of which Mr. Bronfman is deputy chairman of the board of governors.

Mr. Bronfman was presented with six glass vessels, discovered by archaeologists in Israel, which date from the first to the third centuries of the Common Era. Two uniformed guards watched over the vessels as they were unveiled. Mr. Bronfman called them "priceless" and "an unusual and extraordinary gift which I will treasure forever."

EAST BERLIN COMMEMORATES PLAQUE FOR JEWS MARTYRED BY NAZIS

WEST BERLIN, Dec. 19: (JTA) -- The East Berlin municipality was reported today to have affixed a commemorative plaque to the Jewish Old Age Home in East Berlin. The home was dedicated to the memory of Jews murdered by the Nazis.